



Flathead National Forest

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Media Release

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Flathead Forest Friday Focus: Avalanche Program

Everyone Invited for a Breakfast Chat on Friday, January 17

KALISPELL, MONT. – If you recreate in the back-country, are interested in snow science, or want to learn how you can to support the efforts of the Flathead Avalanche Center (FAC), we hope to chat with you during breakfast. The Flathead Avalanche Center continues to evolve in its mission to provide education on avalanche safety and current information on avalanche conditions. The public is invited to join new avalanche center director Erich Peitzsch and other members of the FAC team members at the Night Owl/Back Room Restaurant in Columbia Falls at 7 AM on Friday, January 17, 2014 for a no-host breakfast and discussion on new initiatives within the FAC that will gradually be rolled out this season.

Peitzsch is also the lead avalanche specialist for the USGS/GNP Going-to-the-Sun Road Avalanche Program in Glacier National Park and a Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey where he studies snow and ice. Erich will work part-time as the FAC Avalanche Director this season and continue with his current job with USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Glacier National Park.

Before moving to northwest Montana, Peitzsch completed his Masters of Science in Snow Science at Montana State University in Bozeman in 2009. He began his avalanche career as a professional ski patroller alongside the great avalanche hunters at Alpine Meadows Ski Area in Lake Tahoe, CA.

Every other month, the Forest Service will coordinate these no-host breakfast meetings at a local restaurant with the goal of sharing good food, great company, and a little information about what's happening on our National Forest. We hope the event will be a great way to discuss public land management opportunities and challenges that are important to us all.

If you plan to attend or have any questions, please notify Public Affairs Officer Wade Muehlhof at ewmuehlhof@fs.fed.us or (406) 758-5252. Your response allows us to plan accordingly with the restaurant.

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